

adventure in the Wrong House, consider I am—excepting my master's law, and turning to this dejected personage my eyes, not upon my much-hated namesake, but my old friend and college mate, Henry Brown, of Virginia. That he should dare such a dangerous intercession—that he'd turn against me, no old friend, and run me—killed my teeth at him—I raised my hand in a furious manner, and if there had been a pistol in it, I should certainly blow his brains out.

"You forbid the buns, you scoundrel!" said my father-in-law, in a rage equal to my own. "You—you know, you forbid the buns!" He was approaching my friend impudently—but Harry was looking at me. His face lighted up with wonder, followed by an air of recognition and delight, and smothering, or trying to smother a laugh and laying his finger significantly along his nose, he repeated, though in very altered accents—in fact he could hardly speak from laughing—

"Yes, I forbid the buns—until Mr. Brown gets up." She is on the stairs—What, uncle, do you expect to marry Nellie, without permitting us to be witnesses? Here she is."

Enter Mrs. Harry Brown, a fine looking young matron, but not so fine as my Nelly.

"You thought to give us the slip, by taking the morning boat, and changing your boarding house—you forgot the evening train and my skill in hunting down fugitives."

"And you don't oppose the match, then you dog?" cried my father-in-law, "and you don't know anything against cousin Jim, either?"

"Oh, no, nothing at all. I approve of the match with all my heart and soul: and pray proceed with it quickly as possible;—You, Ellen Brown, do you take this man—but I beg the reverend gentleman's pardon."

The ceremony was resumed, and in two minutes I was married.

"Victory!" cried Harry Brown, seizing my hand, and so interrupting the first-aid embrace, with which according to the fashion, I was saluting my wife. "I congratulate you, cousin James J. Smith, upon having married the finest girl and the rich heiress in Virginia, the very I intended for you. Oh, you dog, who could have thought you had the wit or spirit to accomplish the splendid adventure without my assistance? Know your relations. Don't you see my wife wants to kiss her unknown cousin? You kiss her and I'll kiss Nelly—Ha ha!"

And here my friend went into such explosions of laughter and rejoicing, as amazed everybody except me, who began to be aware of the full extent of my good fortune.

In the midst of this joyous tumult, enters another unexpected visitor. Death! it was the red-headed gentleman of the theatre, the true James J. Smith, as my fears told me, and was rendered still more evident by his first words to my father-in-law:

"Sir," said the young gentleman, grasping his hand, "I have, I believe, the honor of speaking to my dear uncle Thos. Brown, and of introducing to him his unworthy nephew, James J. Smith."

"Bless my soul!" cried the old gentleman, and he could say no more, for he was struck dumb with astonishment.

"Had the misfortune in some unaccountable way," continued the new comer, "to miss you, last fall, promised to drive to you (and here the villain drew out some former letter) and only heard of your being here by accident. But that—I can't be mistaken. Permit me to pay my respects to my dear cousin."

"Mrs. James J. Smith," said I.

"That is to be," added red-head, with deplorable gravity.

I looked around to my friend Harry for assistance, for I confess at this moment my heart failed me; not that I had any fear of my contemptible namesake, indeed, but I dreaded the effect of the denunciation upon my wife and father-in-law, both of whom appeared very much discomposed by the return of affairs. Harry looked as if about going into another burst of merriment, but he nodded his head to us to bid me dash away without fear.

"Sir, James J. Smith that is, sir," said I. "This lady is my wife."

"Sir," said the gentleman, "I am James J. Smith."

"Soam!"

"James Jones Smith," cried red-head, "this lady's cousin."

"James John Smith," said I, "this lady's husband."

"Ugh!" exclaimed James Jones Smith with a look of horror, "you have married Ellen to an imposter, and I am ruined forever."

"What an imposter!" cried Mr. Brown, send for a constable."

"If you do," said I, "he will only arrest your nephew there, not me, as we well know."

The young man speaks truth at least in part. He is your nephew, and he is ruined forever, as I know as well as he; for this afternoon I was dunned upon an unpaid debt of his, for a debt of honor, a gambling debt of two thousand dollars, and was arrested before, for a tailor bill of sale!"

"Oh, for Heaven's sake!" interrupted my rival peevishly. "it is but an hour since I heard him, in the public theatre, when warned to beware of the hawks and buzzards who were on the watch for him, boast to his gambling friends of his rich and cosily handsome cousin the daughter of old rusty, a hard-headed old hunk," as a resource that would enable him to hold up his head amongst the best of men."

"Done for, by jingo," said Mr. James Jones Smith, and snatched out his sword.

"Oh, the abandoned villain!" quoth my father-in-law.

"And if you want more evidence of his worthiness," said Harry, stepping to my aid, "I can give it; and you know uncle I won't hear of it, and he had strange tales of him."

When I came round here with Mrs. Brown to see you, and heard you were marrying away Nelly, I thought it was to him, and that's the reason I forbade the buns."

"Ay sir, and you countenanced, you sided and abetted this worthy personage," said Mr. Brown, senior giving me a look as black as midnight. "You helped, you instigated a rascally imposter, (here the old man gave way to a fit of rage, and Ellen began to cry) to cheat and deceive my girl, to rob me of my daughter."

No imposter at all said Harry. (I would have said the same thing, but he took the words out of my mouth.) He is a gentle man, indeed my old friend and college mate, and the very man I wished to substitute for his namesake—the very man I hinted to you, though I never told you his name. For, in honesty, I must confess I had some thoughts, if now her turn would serve, of getting him to prosecute your nephew, and so cheat you into accepting a wretched son-in-law; he has rushed into the adventure on his own suggestion, (here Harry began to laugh again) and I now admire and love him all the better for his spirit."

"It was a vile deception," said Mr. Brown.

"I declare, sir, and I, it was in impudent, an accidental one altogether—

An extraordinary circumstance had occurred to me, and I was drawn into this trap, and where, once I was ensnared, my name, and my old friend and college mate, Henry Brown, of Virginia. That he should dare such a dangerous intercession—that he'd turn against me, no old friend, and run me—killed my teeth at him—and if there had been a pistol in it, I should certainly blow his brains out.

"On James, don't tell of it," said Ellen. "I had never seen her before—I knew not who she was—yet I fell desperately in love with her, and to improve the opportunity, which I must otherwise have lost, I allowed her to remain deceived. I did tell you, in appealing to your nephew, for I saw that otherwise you would reject me. Yet you must give me credit for disinterested motives, sir, and for a truly uncompromising affection for your daughter, since I stood up to marry her without knowing even so much as her name."

"Very fine indeed," said the charming Mr. Brown. "But as you heard your namesake talk of the rich, as well as devilish handsome daughter of the hard-headed old rusty, (confound the Jackanapes!) you must permit me to believe you were reminded of her two recommendations, together."

"I declare," interrupted I, "I hadn't time to think of anything but her beauty."

"But, sir," continued my father-in-law, sternly, "my nephew forgot to let you and his rascally associates know, sir, that my daughter's riches, sir, depended upon the will of her father, sir, and that's why you get a penny, sir, for marrying a man I don't approve of."

"The sir," said I, "I am proud to assure you that fortune has placed me beyond the necessity of lamenting your disapproval; for, thank Heaven, I have enough, and more than enough, to secure your daughter's happiness, if love and competency can secure your daughter's happiness;

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